This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the Claims:

- 1-8, CANCELED.
- 9. (NEW) A medical instrument probe configured for insertion into a patient's body orifice, comprising:

a probe wall configured to be placed adjacent a patient's body tissue when the probe is inserted into the patient's body orifice; and

a plurality of discrete depressions disposed substantially along the elongated length of the probe wall and being configured to define, when covered by the patient's body tissue, a plurality of discrete, generally thermally insulative air pockets between the patient's body tissue and the probe wall when the probe is inserted into the patient's body orifice.

- 10. (NEW) The probe of claim 9, wherein the plurality of depressions are elongated along the elongated length of the probe wall.
- 11. (NEW) The probe of claim 9, wherein the plurality of depressions are randomly disposed substantially along the elongated length of the probe wall.
- 12. (NEW) The probe of claim 9, further comprising a plurality of ridges separating the plurality of depressions.

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13. (NEW) The probe of claim 9, wherein the probe wall is fabricated of a material having a generally low thermal conductivity.

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14. (NEW) A medical instrument probe configured for insertion into a patient's body orifice, comprising:

a probe wall configured to be placed adjacent a patient's body tissue when the probe is inserted into the patient's body orifice;

a probe cover enveloping the probe wall; and

a plurality of discrete depressions disposed substantially along the elongated length of the probe wall and defining, in combination with the probe cover, a plurality of discrete, thermally insulative air pockets between the patient's body tissue and the probe wall when the probe is inserted into the patient's body orifice.

- 15. (NEW) The probe of claim 14, wherein the plurality of depressions are elongated along the elongated length of the probe wall.
- 16. (NEW) The probe of claim 14, wherein the plurality of depressions are randomly disposed substantially along the elongated length of the probe wall.
- 17. (NEW) The probe of claim 14, further comprising a plurality of ridges separating the plurality of depressions.
- 18. (NEW) The probe of claim 14, wherein the probe wall is fabricated of a material having a generally low thermal conductivity.

19. (NEW) The probe of claim 14, wherein the probe cover is fabricated of a polymer material.

20. (NEW) A medical instrument probe configured for insertion into a patient's body orifice, comprising:

a probe wall configured to be placed adjacent a patient's body tissue when the probe is inserted into the patient's body orifice;

an outer layer supported by the probe wall; and

a plurality of discrete depressions disposed substantially along the elongated length of the probe wall and defining, in combination with the outer layer, a plurality of discrete, generally thermally insulative air pockets between the patient's body tissue and the probe wall when the probe is inserted into the patient's body orifice.

- 21. (NEW) The probe of claim 20, wherein the plurality of depressions are elongated along the elongated length of the probe wall.
- 22. (NEW) The probe of claim 20, wherein the plurality of depressions are randomly disposed substantially along the elongated length of the probe wall.
- 23. (NEW) The probe of claim 20, further comprising a plurality of ridges separating the plurality of depressions.
- 24. (NEW) The probe of claim 20, wherein the probe wall is fabricated of a material having a generally low thermal conductivity.

25. (NEW) A method of providing thermal insulation in a medical instrument probe configured for insertion into a patient's body orifice, the probe having a probe wall configured to be placed adjacent a patient's body tissue when the probe is inserted into the patient's body orifice, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of discrete depressions disposed substantially along the elongated length of the probe wall to define a plurality of discrete, generally thermally insulative air pockets between the patient's body tissue and the probe wall when the probe is inserted into the patient's body orifice.

- 26. (NEW) The method of claim 25, wherein the plurality of depressions are elongated along the elongated length of the probe wall.
- 27. (NEW) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of randomly disposing the plurality of depressions substantially along the elongated length of the probe wall.
- 28. (NEW) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of forming a plurality of ridges separating the plurality of depressions.
- 29. (NEW) The method of claim 25, wherein the probe wall is fabricated of a material having a generally low thermal conductivity.